

From: Imom22@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 10:55am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to voice my opinions and concerns about the ongoing litigation against the Microsoft Corporation.

From the very beginning, it has been clear to myself and to most of the public that the suit was initiated by the companies who compete against Microsoft rather than by the consumer. It is my understanding that the antitrust laws were designed to protect the consumer and not to protect the competition. As a consumer, I have seen Microsoft regularly improve the quality and content of its products while keeping their prices extremely reasonable and affordable. I am sure you would agree that the American consumer is a shrewd and frugal one, and that if we felt that some "big, bad, ruthless monopolist" were "ripping us off," it would be the consumer who would choose a better and cheaper product as they have done throughout our history. Many so called monopolists such as the Ford Corporation have been naturally "reigned in" by their competition who produced a more attractive or cheaper product which the consumer chose to purchase. Should the Walmart Corporation be sued by the Kmart Corporation for forcing it into bankruptcy because the consumer chose to shop at Walmart where prices were cheaper and goods more available?

The current suit by AOL against Microsoft is just as ridiculous. If I felt that the Netscape Browser was the superior product, believe me when I say that my family would be using it right now. I have tried that browser and found it to be more confusing and not as user friendly than the Microsoft browser. That is the reason I continue to use Microsoft's browser and not because my computer came with it! Believing that is to insult the intelligence of the American public. Whether Microsoft is or is not a monopoly is not the issue. If it is, it became that way naturally because we prefer its products and prices over its competition. Why should our government be wasting our taxes pursuing a company whose products its citizens want?

With all the other issues facing this country, especially since 9/11/01, it is time to put this case behind us and accept the proposed settlement as is. It would benefit the consumer and the country as a whole and especially the schools whose students would greatly benefit from the materials Microsoft has agreed to provide them with. The amount of litigation in this country has become nauseating and is paralyzing individuals and corporations from conducting their lives and businesses because of the fear of being sued. Even my 9 year old is encouraging me to "sue" anytime I express dissatisfaction with something. Is this the message we are communicating to the next generation?

Please settle this case immediately and send the message to our

children that we cannot "sue" our way to success. End these suits and settle the case once and for all. If the competition truly want to punish Microsoft, let them develop products that we will want to buy and use instead of Microsoft's, and at a cheaper price. Walmart understood this and has "harmed their competition," to the benefit of it's consumers. I don't see anyone suing them..... yet!!!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Shelley Mora